

Message Text

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SUBJ: VISIT OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR DELLENBACK

1. JULY 8-12 VISIT TO KABUL OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR DELLENBACK WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN TERMS OF CLARIFYING AFGHAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM HERE. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN WANTS ASSISTANCE FROM THE PEACE CORPS. PRESIDENT DAOUD, MR. DELLENBACK AND I HAVE A HALF-OUR DISCUSSION IN WHICH DAOUD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF THE PEACE CORP AND SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM. THIS CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY AND PUNCTUATED WITH HUMOR.

2. IN OTHER HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, MINISTER OF PLANNING KHURRAM DESCRIBED TO MR. DELLENBACK AFGHANISTAN'S TECHNICAL MANPOWER NEEDS DURING ITS FORTHCOMING SEVEN-YEAR DEVELOPMENT AND INDICATED HIS HOPE THAT THE PEACE CORPS WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN FILLING SOME OF THESE NEEDS. MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH OMAR LIKEWISE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PEACE CORPS ASSISTANCE IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS. IN FACT, DURING MR. DELLENBACK'S VISIT, THE PEACE CORPS RECEIVED ITS FIRST FORMAL REQUEST IN OVER TWO YEARS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN

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HEALTH PROGRAMS. CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF

EDUCATION AND THE PRESIDENT OF KABUL UNIVERSITY LIKEWISE
REVEALED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE PEACE CORPS.

3. GIVEN THE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL FACTS OF LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN

EVEN THE PEACE CORPS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE ITS
UPS AND DOWNS HERE. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OF AFGHANISTAN DESIRES PEACE CORPS ASSISTANCE NOT ONLY
BECAUSE THE PEACE CORPS ADDS TO WHAT IT CONSIDERS A
POLITICALLY DESIRABLE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN
BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE PEACE CORPS CAN FILL SOME OF
AFGHANISTAN'S DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS.
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